

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 H-01 SCA-01  
VO-03 DHA-02 INR-07 CIAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00  
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-----081001Z 112001 /17-L

O 080849Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3044

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1230

FOR JACK ARMITAGE, EUR, AND PATRICIA DERIAN, D/HA FROM  
AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, BU (MAREVA, RUMYANA AND YORDANKA)

SUBJECT: MAREV CASE -- PENULTIMATE CHAPTER

REF: A) SOFIA 1219; B) SOFIA 1223

1. AS REPORTED SEPTEL, THE MAREV CHILDREN ARE ON THEIR WAY TO THE US. WHEN YOU READ THIS, THEY SHOULD BE ON TRANS-ATLANTIC LEG TO NEW YORK. THIS MESSAGE IS TO ENLIST YOUR PERSONAL COOPERATION IN SEEING THAT THIS CASE, WHICH SEEMS SO HAPPILY ON THE WAY TO RESOLUTION, DOES NOT MISCARRY FOR LACK OF ATTENTION TO TWO CRUCIAL MATTERS.

2. IT SHOULD NOT BE ASSUMED THAT THE GIRLS WILL NECESSARILY WANT TO STAY REUNITED WITH THEIR PARENTS, WHOM THEY HAVE FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES NEVER SEEN BEFORE (SINCE THEY WERE SO SMALL WHEN PARENTS LEFT). AS WITH ANY IMPRESSIONABLE YOUNGSTERS, THE FIRST IMPRESSIONS THEY GET OF THE US AND OF THEIR PARENTS WILL THEREFORE BE OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE; AND THIS WILL ALSO BE IMPORTANT FOR THE AUNT TRAVELING WITH THEM, WHO IN ALL THE CONFUSION WILL BE THE ONLY PERSON THEY KNOW AND TRUST.

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3. I AM NOT SATISFIED THAT THE TRANSFER AT JFK AIRPORT (FROM INCOMING LUFTHANSA FLIGHT 404 AT 1655 HOURS TODAY TO OUTGOING NATIONAL AIRLINES FLIGHT 425 AT 1910 HOURS) WILL GO SMOOTHLY IF ARRANGEMENTS ARE LEFT SOLELY TO LUFTHANSA AND THE INS. AT THE VERY LEAST THERE ARE BOUND TO BE MAJOR COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES.

THE PLANE MAY BE LATE, CONNECTIONS ARE DIFFICULT TO MAKE, CONFUSION AT JFK IS ENDEMIC, AND THE PARTY OF THREE WILL BE DOG-TIRED, HAVING TRAVELED OVERNIGHT FROM VARNA TO SOFIA BEFORE GETTING ON A PLANE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR LIVES. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES I FORESEE A VERY UNSETTLING FIRST IMPRESSION OF THE US IF THERE IS NOT AT LEAST ONE PERSON ON HAND WHO SPEAKS BULGARIAN AND DISPLAYS SOME HUMAN WARMTH AND KINDNESS TO THE NEW ARRIVALS. THERE IS STILL TIME FOR YOU TO HELP IN THIS RESPECT, BUT NOT MUCH.

4. I AM MINDFUL, AS DEPT OBVIOUSLY IS, THAT EXPOSURE OF CHILDREN TO PRESS IN NEW YORK COULD COMPLICATE THE ZHIVKOVA VISIT. HOWEVER, IF THE MAREVS WANT THE ARRIVAL OF THEIR CHILDREN TO BECOME A PRESS HAPPENING THEY CAN DO THAT JUST AS WELL IN WASHINGTON AS IN NEW YORK, WITH THE SAME CONSEQUENCES. I THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE ON BALANCE TO EVERYONE'S INTEREST FOR THE MOTHER, AT LEAST, TO BE ON HAND WHEN THE CHILDREN ARRIVE IN NEW YORK. BUT THIS IS NOT ALL.

5. IN ANY PRESS BRIEFINGS, AND TO THE EXTENT THAT WE CAN INFLUENCE IT ALSO IN STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS BY THE MAREVS, IT SHOULD NOT BE AUTOMATICALLY ASSUMED THAT THE CHILDREN HAVE COME TO BE PERMANENTLY REUNITED WITH THEIR PARENTS. I CANNOT EMPHASIZE THIS STRONGLY ENOUGH: THE CHILDREN HAVE NO DOUBT BEEN TOLD THAT THEY ARE COMING TO VISIT RPT VISIT THEIR PARENTS, AND IT IS NOT REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT THEY ARE, AT THIS TIME, CONFIDENTIAL

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FULLY PERSUADED THAT THEY WILL WANT TO STAY IN THE US.

6. ACCORDINGLY, THE BEST AND MOST HONEST WAY TO DESCRIBE THEIR ARRIVAL IS TO SAY THAT THEY HAVE BEEN REUNITED WITH THEIR PARENTS AND THAT WHETHER THEY ARE IN THE US ON A VISIT OR TO REMAIN PERMANENTLY WILL NOW DEPEND, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, ON THEIR OWN DESIRES. THE US IS A GREAT COUNTRY, BUT WE SHOULD NOT BLITHELY ASSUME THAT FOR BULGARIAN KIDS IT WILL AUTOMATICALLY SEEM LIKE PARADISE, PARTICULARLY WHEN THEY ARE THROWN IN WITH PARENTS WHO MUST SEEM LIKE TOTAL STRANGERS AND WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THAT THEY LEFT BEHIND NOT ONLY MEMBERS OF THE EXTENDED FAMILY BUT ALSO MANY FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES WHOM THEY WILL MISS.

7. WE HERE ARE ALL VERY HAPPY THAT THINGS HAVE TAKEN SUCH A FAVORABLE TURN. IF ANY ONE PERSON IS SINGLED OUT AT THIS END FOR PRAISE FOR THE AMOUNT OF TIME AND CARE AND EFFORT DEVOTED TO THE MAREV CASE, IT

SHOULD BE PAUL L. THIBAUT, OUR BADLY OVERWORKED AND  
HIGHLY CONSCIENTIOUS CONSULAR OFFICER.  
HERZ

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009